

# Alliance to Fight for Health Care

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your tireless efforts to mitigate the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 virus. We appreciate your work to pass the CARES Act and the earlier stimulus packages. Despite this historic congressional action, more help is needed to protect Americans, our health care system and our economy. As the Senate works this week to consider the latest COVID-19 relief package, we urge you to include a temporary COBRA subsidy, including continuation coverage for church plans, to help people who have lost their jobs or been furloughed stay on their current job-based health insurance.

American families continue to face deep economic uncertainty about job security — and profound anxiety about their own health. With nearly 52.7 million new [jobless claims](#) filed since March 21 at the start of the pandemic, urgent action is needed as part of an effort to provide both economic and health stability for all Americans.

Recent [polling](#) shows that 85% of voters support additional COVID-19 financial assistance legislation. America needs your help to repair the economic and health care damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Families need the security and peace of mind that they can depend on their health care coverage—even if they have lost their job. Fully **90% of voters support Congress taking immediate action to help Americans maintain coverage and continuity of care if they lose their job** (71% strongly), including 86% of Republicans (59% strongly), 87% of Independents (64% strongly), and 94% of Democrats (84% strongly). In addition, the latest [Kaiser Family Foundation Tracking Poll](#) identifies providing COBRA funding as one of the top five priorities for Congress.

## Increasing Federal Funding For Coronavirus Testing, Contact Tracing, And PPE Seen As Top Priority For Congress

Percent who say each of the following should be a **top priority** for Congress:



SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted July 14-19, 2020). See topline for full question wording.



We urge you to include a temporary COBRA subsidy (and continuation coverage for church plans) at a meaningful level of support above 90% that will:

- Help people stay on their current health plans so they don't have to start new deductibles at a time when they can least afford it
- Prevent adding people in permanent public programs at a time when states can least afford it
- Allow people to keep their plans and the doctors they know and trust to keep them and their families healthy during this pandemic

More Americans are covered by employer-provided health benefits than all other forms of health insurance combined. The employer system offers vital coverage that employees' value and prefer. This coverage also provides a primary source of stable funding for our hospitals and health care providers, reimbursing our providers at market-based rates for the care and treatment they provide. We are seeking bipartisan policy solutions that preserve health coverage, protect against overwhelming Medicaid and other safety net programs, and offer stability to our nation's health care system.

The employer-provided health care system delivers vital coverage to millions of Americans. We stand ready to support your efforts to develop legislation to protect the stability of our health care system and the health coverage of millions of Americans during this global pandemic. We look forward to working together to fight for health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

## **The Alliance to Fight for Health Care**

*The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-provided health coverage. The Alliance is committed to ensuring that employer-provided coverage remains an effective and affordable option for working Americans and their families, especially during times of global health and economic crisis. The coalition (previously working as the **Alliance to Fight the 40**), led the successful effort to repeal the so-called 40% "Cadillac Tax" on health care coverage.*

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